

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 3-11, 14, 16, 18, and 20 and AMEND claims 12, 13, 15 and 17 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method for identifying hierarchically structured objects ~~in a distributed hierarchical system in which objects are characterized with by~~ identifiers, and ~~contexts manage each object having an environment in which it is known, said method~~ comprising:

modeling the environment of each object by a context of the identifiers of the objects within the environment, comprising: where the identifiers of the objects within each environment are obligatory unique, but are allowed to be non-unique relative to other objects within different environments, and

storing the context[[s]] of each environment to form a plurality of indirection stages, with all names and identifiers for all contained objects being known and unique within a context levels.

13. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising: ~~storing if a container objects-object that contains other objects exists, and hierarchically structured~~ storing the contexts of the other objects information for each with the container object.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising~~[[:]~~ storing, when the container object contains other container objects, the contexts in a lowest possible container object-containing the objects, local object identifications to identify the objects using a chain of object identifications among the hierarchically structured objects.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising[[:]] storing connections between the objects ~~are~~ in the form of monikers.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the contexts are provided for managing the identifiers of the objects for object operations including at least one of moving, copying and renaming, without global, central management functions being provided.

20. (canceled)